

## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

### Secretariat of the Assembly

#### Synopsis No. 2004/60

30 April 2004

**The Bureau of the Assembly**, meeting in Strasbourg on Friday 30 April 2004 at 8.30 am, with Mr Peter Schieder, President of the Parliamentary Assembly in the Chair, as regards:

- *2<sup>nd</sup> part of the 2004 Ordinary session (26-30 April 2004)*: follow-up to be given:

a. Progress report: took note that the Assembly had approved the Bureau's recommendations not to proceed with the election of judges in respect of Malta, Portugal and Slovakia during this part-session and to ask the governments of these countries to put forward new lists of candidates;

b. Resolution 1370 (2004) on Contested credentials of the parliamentary delegation of Serbia and Montenegro: asked the Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Immunities to ensure a follow-up to the Assembly's decision to "adapt its rules as quickly as possible in a manner to allow that the credentials of individual members can be contested on the grounds of substance so that democratic forces in a given delegation do not suffer from restrictions on credentials";

c. Euthanasia:

. took note of the Assembly's decision to refer this report back to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee and give this Committee one year as from 27 April 2004 to adopt a new report;

. following a request of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, referred this matter to this Committee for an opinion on the new report;

d. Resolution 1371 (2004) on Disappeared persons in Belarus: took note:

. that "until substantial progress is made regarding the Assembly's demands under paragraphs 10 and 11 above, the Assembly does not consider it appropriate to reconsider the suspension of the special guest status in favour of the Belarus Parliament";

. that "as long as no substantial progress is made as regards paragraph 11 above, the Assembly considers inappropriate the presence, even informal, of Belarussian parliamentarians during its sessions";

e. Resolution 1374 (2004) on Honouring of obligations and commitments by Armenia: took note:

. that the Assembly instructed the Monitoring Committee to "send its rapporteurs to Armenia to present a report on the situation, particularly on the follow-up of the

recommendations set out in sub-paragraphs 9 i to 9 vi as soon as appropriate and well before the opening of the October 2004 part-session”;

. that “if no progress with regard to sub-paragraphs 9.i to 9.vi is made by the opening of the October 2004 part-session, the Assembly resolves to reconsider the credentials of the Armenian delegation in accordance with Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure”;

f. Resolution No 1376 (2004) on Cyprus: asked the Secretary General of the Assembly to prepare a memorandum on the implementation of the Assembly’s decision “to associate more closely elected representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly and its Committees, beyond the framework of Assembly Resolution 1113 (1997) and integrated to the Cypriot delegation”;

g. Kazakhstan: in conformity with the cooperation agreement signed on 27 April 2004, agreed to discuss in June 2005 a report by the Parliament of Kazakhstan on the progress achieved in the promotion of the principles stated in paragraph 1 of the agreement as well as on the issue of the death penalty;

- *Request for Special Guest status by the National Council of Monaco*: in conformity with Opinion No 250 (2004) and following a request by the National Council of Monaco, granted special guest status to the National Council of Monaco and allocated two seats to its parliamentary delegation;

- *Latvia*: in the light of the opinion of the Monitoring Committee, decided not to reopen a monitoring procedure as regards Latvia (subject to confirmation by the Assembly at the June Part-Session);<sup>1</sup>

- *Libya*:

a. took note that, in conformity with a previous decision of the Bureau, Mr Eörsi intended to visit Libya in May 2004;

b. agreed that, in the case of the imprisoned Bulgarian medical staff being liberated, the Political Affairs Committee could invite a delegation of the Libyan Parliament for an exchange of views;

- *European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)*: took note of the recommendations of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and:

a. with regard to Armenia, drew up the lists of candidates in the following order: 1. Mrs Khachatryan; 2. Mr Darbinyan; 3. Mr Arakelian;

b. with regard to Russia, given that the Committee considered that it had not been in a position to ensure that the candidates met the criteria established in Recommendation 1323 (1997) due to the lack of information provided by the curricula vitae of the three candidates, requested that the Russian delegation submit a list with more informative curriculum vitae;

c. invited the Parliament of Serbia and Montenegro to put forward candidates;

- *Observation of forthcoming elections - Presidential election in Serbia on 13 June*: in accordance with the guidelines for observing elections, decided not to observe this election;

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<sup>1</sup> This was already confirmed by the Assembly on 30 April 2004.

- *Death penalty against minors - possible Council of Europe intervention before the U.S. Supreme Court as amicus curiae alongside the European Union:* following a letter of the Chairman of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights:

a. agreed to join, on behalf of the Parliamentary Assembly, the amicus curiae brief to be submitted to the United States Supreme Court by the European Union and to ask the EU coordinator to attach a “statement of interest of the Parliamentary Assembly”.

b. asked the Assembly’s President to contact the Chairman of the Ministers’ Deputies and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to propose to invite them to join this initiative of the Assembly;

- *Composition of the Monitoring Committee:* approved the following proposals by political groups for new members for ratification by the Assembly: EPP/CD - Mr Agramunt; EDG – MM. Kristovskis and Kosachev (to replace MM. Dobelis and Rogozin);

- *References and transmissions to Committees:* approved the following proposals for references:

1. **Doc. 10152**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mrs Wohlwend and others**  
**Position of the Parliamentary Assembly as regards the Council of Europe member and observer countries which have not abolished the death penalty,** to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, *for report*
2. **Doc. 10156**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Azzolini and others**  
**Seal Hunting,** to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, *for report* and drew attention, in this connection, to the proposal of the parliamentary delegation of Canada to engage a dialogue on this issue
3. **Doc. 10158**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mrs Ahlqvist and others**  
**Education in the field of human rights,** to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education to be taken into account in the preparation of the report “Education for Europe”
4. **Doc. 10160**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Braun and others**  
**Law on local elections in Romania,** postponed its decision
5. **Doc. 10166**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Jacquat and others**  
**A dynamic housing policy as an element of European social cohesion,** to the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, *for report*
6. **Doc. 10167**  
**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Shybko and others**  
**Consequences of European Union enlargement for opportunities of the Central and Eastern European states - Council of Europe members – to join the Bologna process,** transmission *for information* to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education
7. **Doc. 10168**  
**Motion for a resolution presented by Mr Severin and others**

**Strengthening the collaboration relations of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe with other international parliamentary organisations having similar competences**, postponed its decision until the adoption by the Assembly of the report on the composition of the Bureau

**8. Doc. 10169**

**Motion for a recommendation presented by Mr Lengagne and others**  
**Student disaffection for scientific studies**, transmission *for information* to the Committee on Culture, Science and Education

**9. Doc. 10173**

**Motion for a Resolution presented by Mr Wilkinson and others**  
**Policy of return for failed asylum seekers in the Netherlands**, to the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population, *for report*.

**10. Doc. 9898**

**Euthanasia (modification of the Assembly's decision of 27 April 2004)**, also to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, *for opinion on the new report*

- *Meetings elsewhere than in Strasbourg and Paris*: authorised the following meetings:

- . Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe, Budapest (Hungary), 26 May 2004 (European Youth Centre),
- . Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter and Employment, Limassol (Cyprus), 27-28 May 2004,
- . Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Barcelona (Spain), 2-3 July 2004,
- . Sub-Committee on Youth and Sport, Poznan (Poland), 15-17 September 2004,
- . Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Sub-Committee on Local and Regional Democracy, Chioggia (Italy), 23-24 September 2004.

- *Appointment of Assembly representatives for official activities*: appointed the following representatives:

- a. Meeting of Speakers of the parliaments of the Countries neighbouring Iraq, organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Amman, 12-13 May 2004): Mr Gross;
- b. XXX<sup>th</sup> session of "l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie" (APF), Charlottetown, 4-7 July 2004): Mr Legendre without costs for the Assembly;
- c. 13<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (29-31 August 2004): Mr Blankenborg;
- d. Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, organised by the National Assembly of Slovenia (Portorož, 10 May 2004): Mr Azzolini;

- *Visits of rapporteurs*: authorised Mrs Vermot-Mangold, Rapporteur on the "Disappearance and murder of a great number of women and girls in Mexico" to visit the region in the near future;

- *2<sup>nd</sup> Saint Petersburg International Parliamentary Conference on Pan-European Cooperation (St. Petersburg, 16 April 2004)*: took note of an information document prepared by Mr Cekuolis, the Assembly's representative at this conference;

- *Election of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe*: agreed on the modalities of the interviews with the candidates to be held on 24 May 2004 in Paris;

- *Date and place of the next meetings:* proposed to hold the following meetings:

- . Paris, Monday 24 May 2004 at 3.00 pm.
- . Strasbourg, Monday 21 June 2004 at 8.30 am
- . Strasbourg, Friday 25 June 2004 at 8.30 am
- . Oslo, Tuesday 7 September 2004 at 8.30 am.

Petr Sich/Alexandra Alleon

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cc. Secretary General of the Assembly  
Secretariat of the Assembly  
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly  
Special guests and observers to the Assembly

Directors General  
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe  
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers  
Director of Communication and Research

Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe